10th October 1928]

A.—In regard to the Bill to amend the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to Question No. 87 at the meeting held on 4th September 1928. The draft of the Village Panchayat Bill is under scrutiny. The Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act with the criticisms received thereon from local bodies and individuals consulted is being placed before the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee at a meeting to be held on the 15th October.

Municipal Councils

Introduction of amending Bill to the District Municipalities Act.

* 496 *Q.*—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Government propose to introduce an amending Bill to the District Municipalities Act;

(*b*) whether a draft amending Bill is ready;

(*c*) whether the Government propose to abolish nominations altogether; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to reserve seats to Mussalmans, Indian Christians and depressed classes in elections?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A draft Bill has been prepared and referred to municipal councils for an expression of their opinions by the 1st December 1928. The provisions of the Bill will be scrutinized in the light of the remarks received and after the completion of the scrutiny steps will be taken to introduce the Bill.

(*c*) The Government propose to abolish nominations reserving however power to appoint to any municipal council such number of persons as they think fit, not exceeding three to represent the European or Anglo-Indian communities or officers of Government. Persons so appointed will be supernumerary councillors irrespective of and in addition to the strength fixed for the Council.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know why officers of Government are necessary in the municipal councils?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"I thought the experience gained by such officials in the district would be useful for the proper administration of local bodies."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know whether they would not be unduly influencing the other members?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"That is asking for information."

Publication of the preliminary list of voters for Saidapet municipality.

* 497 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a memorial from certain voters of the Saidapet municipality, complaining about the Chairman's action in the matter of the publication of the preliminary list of voters for ward IV and seeking Government's intervention in the matter;